



State of Utah

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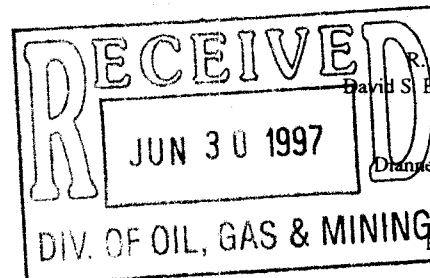
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Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary



June 11, 1997

Doug Jensen, Environmental Coordinator
USMX of Utah, Inc.
P.O. Box 2650
St. George, Utah 84770

Subject: Monitoring Reports and Status of Ground Water Quality Permit No. UGW530001

Dear Mr. Jensen:

I would like to thank you for your patience in regards to the reisuance of the above referenced permit. Due to an extremely busy year I have been unable to respond sooner to your monitoring reports (July 11, 1996; October 10, 1996; and April 11, 1997), your permit reapplication (August 5, 1996) and your infiltration simulation submittal (September 16, 1996). These items will all be addressed in this letter or in the near future.

With respect to your July 11, 1996 request to discontinue monitoring of 7 wells, we ask that you continue to monitor these wells until the issuance of the new permit. This should occur in the next 3 months. All of the monitoring reports reference the ongoing testing of the bioreactor. Could you please provide a summary of the analyses results.

In my review of these items I have noted one discrepancy that I need to point out. The infiltration simulation assumes that a ten inch clay layer is placed beneath a ten inch layer of top soil. The permit reapplication letter does not mention this clay layer. If it is not USMX's intent to place a clay infiltration barrier beneath the top soil on the heaps then the infiltration simulation does not model the actual long term conditions expected at the facility. Therefore design of the bioreactor based on these results could be flawed. Could you please provide a clarification for me concerning the above issue.

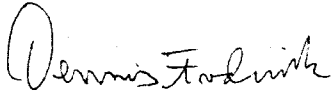
With respect to your reapplication letter most of the suggested changes in the permit conditions are acceptable. I will utilize your letter as a guide in writting a new permit. If you have any further information concerning when your final closure plan will be ready for submittal please let me know.



Doug Jensen
June 11, 1997
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My next correspondence will be the transmittal of a proposed draft permit. Changes to that draft can be made based on your comments and our concurrence. The final draft permit will be public noticed and issued 30 days thereafter provided no significant adverse public comment is recieved.

Sincerely,



Dennis Frederick, P.E.
Ground Water Protection Section

cc: Wayne Thomas, District Engineer
Wayne Hedburg, DOGM
SW District Health Dept.

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